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Press release - Festival Hall

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, THE HON. DON  
DUNSTAN, Q.C., M.P.      AUGUST 7, 1968.

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The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Dunstan, said today that if action was not taken soon on the site for the Festival Hall, Adelaide would no longer have a Festival of Arts.

Mr. Dunstan said: "Experts in all spheres of the Arts have said that unless the Hall is built in time for the 1972 Festival, Adelaide will lose the Festival to Melbourne or Sydney."

"The common-sense approach to the problem of which site to use, is to follow the advice of experts, in this case internationally renowned theatre consultants. This is what the Labor Government did when it accepted the advice of the DeGaetani Report."

"The L.C.L. Government is being narrow-minded and short-sighted in its outlook on this question. It argues that the site at the rear of Government House is parklands which should not be touched on any account. But there are buildings on three sides of the site already, and the public is not allowed to use half the area anyway."

Mr. Dunstan said: "There is no other site in Adelaide with all the advantages of the site in Kintore Avenue at the rear of Government House, especially none which has a natural site advantage that offers minimum excavation and virtually no demolition before building could start. Both these advantages lower costs immediately."

"If the Labor Party was in office, designs for the building would have been started, and there would have been little ground for what has become a pointless controversy."

"I hope the Government can see their way clear to stop opposing our moves just for the sake of opposition," Mr. Dunstan said.

Mr. Dunstan said: "At the rate the present L.C.L. Government is moving, Adelaide will not have a Festival Hall for at least five more years."